

FUTURE-READY PUBLIC SECTOR LEADERSHIP



Leading for Impact: Navigating complexity, building trust, and shaping the future of the public sector.

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

OVERVIEW

This program is designed to support experienced EL1 and EL2 (and equivalent) leaders to navigate the evolving demands of the public sector. Through a combination of practical tools, expert insights, structured reflection, and peer learning, participants build the capabilities required to lead effectively in complexity. The program provides a bridge between current leadership practice and the mindsets, skills, and ways of seeing the system that are essential for future senior executive roles.

Each session is delivered by an expert in their respective field. Andy Corbett, Founder and Managing Director of CorbettPrice (a boutique consultancy focused on supporting public sector transformation) delivers Session 1 on strategic foresight and scenario planning. Facilitators from the Cranlana Centre for Ethical Leadership at Monash University deliver Session 2 on ethical leadership and personal integrity. Ric Taylor, IPAA's Capability Manager (a leadership coaching and workplace culture specialist), delivers Session 3 on adaptive leadership and Session 6 on leading change and building a resilient public sector. Ellen Samuels, Executive Manager and Director at Communication Link (a specialised consultancy focused on communications, engagement and change management across the public sector and elsewhere) delivers Session 4 on building cross-functional relationships and Session 5 on influential communication and negotiation.

DELIVERY

In 2026, the program will be offered 3 times.

February – Fully in-person, August – Fully digital, October – Hybrid (digital + in-person).

All in person sessions are held in Canberra. Digital sessions are delivered via MS Teams.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The Future-Ready Public Leadership program is open to IPAA ACT organisational members only. Check if your organisation is a member [here](#).

This program is specifically designed for high-performing and experienced EL1 or EL2 (or equivalent in the private and academic sectors).

If you would like to know more about the program, please reach out to the IPAA ACT team on 02 6154 9800 or capability@act.ipaa.org.au

THE PROGRAM

SESSION 1 STRATEGIC FORESIGHT AND SCENARIO PLANNING	Seeing Around Corners: Strategic Foresight for Public Sector Leaders Anticipate and navigate emerging challenges with confidence. Through scenario planning exercises, explore how to create and evaluate future scenarios that drive informed decision-making. Learn to identify and analyse trends that impact organisational strategy, ensuring agility in a rapidly changing environment.
SESSION 2 ETHICAL LEADERSHIP AND PERSONAL INTEGRITY	Leading with Integrity: Upholding Public Sector Values Deepen your understanding of ethical decision-making, personal integrity, and the values that underpin public service in this session. You will explore real-world case studies and scenarios to refine your ethical judgment and learn to commit to public sector ethical standards and values. You will discuss how to approach complex ethical dilemmas with confidence and clarity, strengthening your ability to act with integrity in challenging situations.
SESSION 3 ADAPTIVE LEADERSHIP	Adaptive Leadership: Holding Space for Consequential Change Thrive in complexity by learning how to lead adaptively in a fast-paced, evolving public sector environment. Explore how to embrace uncertainty, reframe challenges, and empower teams to drive continuous improvement. You'll learn to recognise deeper issues and patterns, balance flexibility with purpose, identify core challenges amid change, and respond effectively through strategic adaptation.
SESSION 4 BUILDING CROSS- FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS	Breaking Silos: Building Collaborative Networks Enhance your ability to build strong, productive relationships across diverse teams and stakeholders. You will develop collaboration and relationship-building skills that drive unified action, helping you foster cross-functional collaboration and break down organisational silos. You will learn strategies for engaging stakeholders effectively and incorporating their input into policy decisions.
SESSION 5 INFLUENTIAL COMMUNICATION AND NEGOTIATION	The Art of Influence: Communicating with Impact Strengthen your communication skills to enhance influence, persuasiveness, and clarity. You will learn techniques for tailoring messages to diverse audiences and negotiating effectively in complex public sector environments. You will strengthen your ability to engage stakeholders through persuasive communication, practice active listening and adaptive communication techniques, and develop negotiation skills to achieve win-win outcomes and manage conflicts constructively.
SESSION 6 LEADING CHANGE AND BUILDING A RESILIENT PUBLIC SECTOR	Resilient Leadership: Guiding Change in Uncertain Times This final session will equip you with the skills to lead change and build organisational resilience. You will learn frameworks and practical tools for guiding teams through transitions, fostering adaptability, and ensuring sustainable outcomes. You will master strategies for leading successful change initiatives that align with organisational goals, build resilience within teams to navigate uncertainty and maintain high performance, and understand how to monitor and adjust change processes to achieve long-term success.

2026 CALENDAR

COHORT 1

Session 1	in-person	17 Feb	9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Session 2	in-person	17 Feb	1:30 pm – 5 pm
Session 3	in-person	18 Feb	9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Session 4	in-person	18 Feb	1:30 pm – 5 pm
Session 5	in-person	19 Feb	9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Session 6	in-person	19 Feb	1:30 pm – 5 pm

COHORT 2

Session 1	digital	4 Aug	9:30 am – 1 pm
Session 2	digital	6 Aug	9:30 am – 1 pm
Session 3	digital	11 Aug	9:30 am – 1 pm
Session 4	digital	13 Aug	9:30 am – 1 pm
Session 5	digital	18 Aug	9:30 am – 1 pm
Session 6	digital	20 Aug	9:30 am – 1 pm

COHORT 3

Session 1	digital	13 Oct	9:30 am – 1 pm
Session 2	digital	15 Oct	9:30 am – 1 pm
Session 3	in-person	21 Oct	9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Session 4	in-person	21 Oct	1:30 pm – 5 pm
Session 5	in-person	22 Oct	9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Session 6	in-person	22 Oct	1:30 pm – 5 pm